

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
West-Central Africa Division
Annual Week of Education Emphasis
[5th—11th February 2023]

Theme: YOUR CHILDREN SHALL BE TAUGHT BY THE LORD

Theme Songs: SDAH 618; H&L 347; HA 506.; HASD 345

Dear fellow believers, the time has come for the entire membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the West-Central Africa Division to reflect again and even more deeply for a whole week on the great responsibility of every home, every local church, and every school to prepare our children and youth for the Gospel Commission for the imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Day after day, the signs of the time are blatantly announcing the nearness of the return of our Lord.

Consequently, our children and youth are increasingly exposed not only to pressures and oppressions of the world around them, but also to almost irresistible tasteful and tantalizing temptations to sin. The multiplicity and complexity of religions and spiritualities are gradually compelling our children and youth to depart from divine absolutes and rectitude as they are subtly but steadily deviated from searching for the face of the Maker to self-seeking, self-centeredness, and self-aggrandizement through syncretism, idolatry, and all forms of disguised satanism.

On the other hand, the leading educational philosophies and systems have almost succeeded in convincing the entire world, including professed Christians, that what counts in education is mere intellectual development for the sole purpose of optimizing the self-centered benefits from one's talents and giftedness. Our world today is replete with side effects of such desired outcomes of worldly education. These include the high rate of criminality despite the ever-increasing number of peace-promoting organizations, unimaginable forms and rates of hatred, disunity, selfishness despite the multiplicity of religions, the unprecedented global mortality rate despite technological advancement in both medical and security industries, and incessant multifaceted conflicts between communities and nations despite numerous peace treaties that are hardly respected.

The time is now or never for us to surrender our children's and youth's education to Master Teacher, the Maker, Redeemer, and Sustainer of life and reformer of lifestyle, who alone will make those young ones to be successful and useful in this sin-sick world, even as they prepare themselves and others for eternal citizenship in the Everlasting Kingdom of God.

The King of King and Lord of Lord is thus reminding us of His promise, saying "All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace. In righteousness you will be established: Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed; it will not come near you." (Isa. 54: 13-14). He who painfully watched our parents as they dropped out of His Edenic school thereby exposing themselves to decay and death; He who watched Israel adamantly choosing death instead of life as they repeatedly rejected His guiding principles in order to follow the worldly around the; He who paid for the death penalty of our disobedience in order to reclaim to Himself as many of His erring children

as would be willing to follow Him, is more than ready to assist our homes, churches, and schools toward snatching our children and youth from the Devil's subtle snares, thereby reforming in us His image that has been marred and broken by sin, and retaining what we have till He comes. During this week of WAD Education Emphasis, we shall discover God as the Teacher of teachers, the reason for God to embark on teaching our children and youth, the environment that ushers our children and youth to God's school, the relevance of God's teachings to our children and youth, and the urgency of enrolling ourselves, our children, and youth into God's school. Our prayer is that every Seventh-day Adventist individual, home, and church will henceforth ardently seek to understand the centrality of God's teachings in the wholistic development of our children and youth.

We strongly recommend that Wednesday February 8 be a day of prayer and fasting for Adventist Education and that a special Education offering be brought to the Church on Sabbath February 11. The offering shall be reported to the Conference/Mission which, in consultation with local church leaders, shall prepare an expenditure budget to be voted by the Executive Committee upon recommendation by the Board of Education of each entity. The money shall mainly be used for rehabilitation of existing schools or as seed money for building schools based on the needs of each entity.

WAD Education Team

February, 2023

February 5, 2023

God, the Teacher of teachers

Key Text: John 3: 1-2

“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him” (KJV).

It is amazing to hear these words of John 3: 1-2 coming out of a man like Nicodemus. As the text reveals, Nicodemus was a pharisee, meaning he was a great expert of the Law and, by implication, a teacher of the Law. He was also a ruler of the Jews. “Nicodemus held a high position of trust in the Jewish nation. He was highly educated, and possessed talents of no ordinary character, and he was an honored member of the national council. With others, he had been stirred by the teaching of Jesus. Though rich, learned, and honored, he had been strangely attracted by the humble Nazarene. The lessons that had fallen from the Saviour's lips had greatly impressed him, and he desired to learn more of these wonderful truths” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 167).

Naturally, Nicodemus would be expected to oppose the teachings and practices of Jesus Christ who was neither of the pharisees nor the Scribes (the main teaching elites of the time), and who often criticized their way of teaching and living. But Nicodemus’ eyes and ears were opened to realize that Jesus Christ was not only a teacher, but a teacher from God. Nicodemus clearly distinguished the nature and power of this Teacher—Jesus Christ—from the nature and power of all teachers he knew and of which he himself was.

By addressing Jesus as Rabbi, and by affirming that “we know that thou art a teacher come from God,” Nicodemus—himself a teacher—implicitly identified Jesus Christ’s teaching ministry as of a superior quality and impact, even as this was obvious to all who attended his classes. For instance, the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew 5, 6, 7 ends with the words “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Matt. 7: 28-30, KJV). A similar testimony is recorded concerning the teachings of Jesus Christ in the early days of His ministry when He, accompanied by His disciples, stood to teach in the synagogue. The apostle Mark records that “And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes” (Mark 1: 21-22, KJV).

What Nicodemus and all his co-listeners experienced in Christ’s classroom was only a set of few lessons out of an eternity of continued education to which man had been destined right from the days of creation. If Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God’s instruction, they would have forever been in God’s ever enriching school, which He had established in the garden of Eden for their eternally growing knowledge, endless emancipation, and unlimited joy and happiness. “The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all aftertime. As an illustration of its principles a model school was established in Eden, the home of our first parents. The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom,

nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students" (*Education*, p. 20).

Unfortunately, sin disqualified Adam and Eve from that original classroom, and made them long for another system of education, which exposed them to the knowledge of evil that eventually became their practice and lifestyle. Consequently, the Teacher of teachers was constrained to dismiss them from His classroom! "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So, he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." (Gen. 3: 22-24, KJV).

Our first parents became school dropouts; they forfeited the superior system of education that would sustain their predestined eternal life, and stooped down to enroll in a degrading, debasing, and debilitating system of education that brought about suffering and death.

Fortunately, the Lord God, the Teacher of teachers did not abandon His dropout students. He has continued to appeal to mankind throughout history to come back to His school for better knowledge and better lifestyle in the present world, and restoration to eternal life in the world to come.

Thus, to Cain, the first born of Adam and Eve, God said "Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him." (Gen. 4: 6-7, KJV). To the Israelites wondering in the desert God said "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it. But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it" (Deut. 30: 15-18, KJV).

To idolatrous Israel, the Teacher of teachers said: "Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers." "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isa. 1: 5-7, 18-20, KJV). The Teacher of teachers later exhorted the same disobedient Israel saying: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for

that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness" (Isa. 55: 1-2, KJV).

To Nicodemus and his generation, the Teacher of teachers declared: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God" (John 3: 16-21, KJV).

Finally, from the time of the apostolic church to our time, even till the end of time, the voice of the Teacher of teacher keeps calling humanity back to the divine school of redemption and restoration saying: "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev. 3: 17-18, 20, KJV).

"The world has had its great teachers, men and women of giant intellect and extensive research, people who have stimulated thought and opened to view vast fields of knowledge. But there is One who stands higher than they. As heavenly bodies in our solar system shine by the reflected light of the sun, so, as far as their teaching is true, do the world's great thinkers reflect the rays of the Sun of Righteousness. Every gleam of thought, every flash of the intellect, is from the Light of the world" (*True Education*, p. 9)

May the Lord God, the Teacher of teachers, cause us to hear His voice and to accept His free admission into the divine for school worthy life on earth and eternal life in the world to come.

Prayer emphasis:

- Revival of the slumbering believers in the Church
- Conversion of false believers in the Church
- Eradication of the Laodicean spirit that is steadily settling in the Church
- Awakening to Bible study in our homes, churches, and schools

February 6, 2023

Why Should God alone teach our children?

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 1: 20

"Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

Looking at the ever-worsening troubles of this world because of sin and its consequences, God and God alone can rightly teach our children if they would grow to be worthy men and women in this world and the world to come.

Since the time sin entered the world, man has made countless attempts to prove to himself that he can do without God. But at every stage of such attempts, man discovered with amazement that without God, we can do nothing that is beneficial to us in this life and the life to come. Cain, a student of the first and only students of Eden school, decided to disobey the instructions of the Teacher of teachers, and this led him to kill his only brother Abel and to end in bitter and disappointed life as he lamented saying: "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me." (Gen. 4: 13-14, KJV).

Moses, after receiving the then best education the world could ever offer, decided to use his own ways to save his people from slavery. But because he had not continued his education in the Lord's school through his mother's teaching (Exod. 2: 1-10), the best worldly education he received could not even liberate one of his brethren out of the hands of the Egyptians. Rather, he almost lost his life and ended up fleeing (Exod. 2: 11-22). It was only after 40 years of God's education in the wilderness that Moses, though poor, physically and militarily weaker than when he made the first attempt, was ready to be used by God to deliver Israel (Acts 7: 23-36). Nebuchadnezzar, the king of the earthly kings of his time, thought he could fathom the mysteries of life through his best trained magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans. But only those who fear the God of Heaven were able to help him out. "Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, the secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these...The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret" (Dan. 2: 27-47). Indeed, the Chaldeans themselves had earlier and categorically declared to the king, "The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, there is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh" (Dan. 2: 10-11).

In our recent history, what boastful claim has man not made, basing on his great scientific and technological achievements to deny the existence and power of God? From the time the

scientists and philosophers of the 19th century hailed the strange ideas of Charles Darwin that gave birth to the theory of evolution, the idea of a Creator and Sustainer of the Universe to God has been shaky and uncertain in the human mind, especially the mind of those who are not adequately exposed to Bible truth.

At that time (19th century) when the Savior of the world was entering the Most Holy to cleanse the Sanctuary (Dan. 8: 14) before coming to take to Heaven His chosen ones (Rev. 22: 10-15), humanity was being forcefully pushed to deny the existence of God. For instance, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche who was born and grew up in that period (October 15, 1844 to August 25, 1900) alongside the inception of the last generation of the Remnant church, became one of the principal heralds of the would-be non-existence of God, as he boastfully and deceptively defended his ideology in his popular statement "*God Is Dead. God Remains Dead. And We Have Killed Him.*" This ideology of attempting to efface God from the human mind keeps widening and deepening with time as Henry M. Morris describes it in his book "*The Long War Against God: The History and Impact of the Creation/Evolution Conflict.*" This conflict has now become the center of argument about true vs. false science, rationality vs. irrationality, and even truth vs. falsehood. And our world today is so much in favor of evolution that belief in God is perceived as delusion, at best, and even grievously harmful to the society, as Richard Dawkins—a preeminent scientist and the world's most prominent atheist—asserts in his book "*The God Delusion.*"

Unfortunately, none of the above and many similar ideologies have been able to lift man from his increasing mental traumas, moral decadence, family deterioration, international conflicts, natural calamities, etc.

No wonder the Everlasting God, the Omniscient and Omnipotent God, has always sought to bring man back to His divine classroom for better life.

While Israel was about to enter the promised land, God reactivated His curriculum for child education to enable parents raise a generation of children who will love God with all their heart and mind, and love fellow humans as themselves. God told the people through Moses: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage" (Deut. 6: 4-12).

After Israel had settled in the promised land, parents and leaders forgot God's instructions, and "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes"

(Judges 17: 6; 21: 25). The Lord God, in His infinite love decided to help His people with meaningful education by establishing the schools of the prophets (1 Samuel 19:18-24). "To meet this growing evil, God provided other agencies as an aid to parents in the work of education. From the earliest times, prophets had been recognized as teachers divinely appointed. In the highest sense the prophet was one who spoke by direct inspiration, communicating to the people the messages he had received from God. But the name was given also to those who, though not so directly inspired, were divinely called to instruct the people in the works and ways of God. For the training of such a class of teachers, Samuel, by the Lord's direction, established the schools of the prophets" (*Education*, p. 46).

The purpose of God's system of redemptive and restorative education is clearly amplified by the Spirit of Prophecy as follows: "These schools were intended to serve as a barrier against the wide-spreading corruption, to provide for the mental and spiritual welfare of the youth, and to promote the prosperity of the nation by furnishing it with men qualified to act in the fear of God as leaders and counselors" (*Education*, p. 46). The Lord's intention has always been to attend to the greatest want of the world, which is "the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall" (*Education*, p. 57).

The multifaceted crisis of our world today is a loud appeal to all parents, churches, and schools to let God be the Teacher of our children. No one on earth is sound enough to teach our children unless he is a co-laborer with God. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8: 22-23).

May God cause us to see the urgency and understand the reason why He alone can provide our children with safe salvific education. Only then can we hope to be ready for "casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled." (2 Cor. 10: 5-6)

Prayer Emphasis:

- The spirit of surrender to God
- The spirit of promoting and sponsoring Adventist education
- The spirit of financially supporting Adventist education
- The spirit of training all our children in Adventist education

February 7, 2023

Where does the Lord want to teach our children?

Key Text: John 10: 1-5

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.”

“There are two classes of educators in the world. One class is those whom God makes channels of light, and the other class is those whom Satan uses as his agents, who are wise to do evil. One class contemplates the character of God and increases in the knowledge of Jesus, whom God hath sent into the world. This class becomes wholly given up to those things which bring heavenly enlightenment, heavenly wisdom, to the uplifting of the soul. Every capability of their nature is submitted to God, and their thoughts are brought into captivity to Christ. The other class is in league with the prince of darkness, who is ever on the alert that he may find an opportunity to teach others the knowledge of evil” (*Child Guidance*, p. 303).

Today’s generation of children and youth is more exposed to predators and parasites than any other generation in the past. Through the global impact of evolutionary theory on education, the explosion of technological advancement that has turned the earth into a global household through social media, child and youth education is hardly be free from morally debilitating curriculums and ethically poisonous learning materials. While the Christian home may make efforts to “train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22: 6), those efforts may be in vain if the child is fed on spiritual and intellectual rubbish in the Church and the school. True and untainted education would therefore come from the synergy between the home, the church, and the school. But how could this synergy be possible if the home, Church, and school are of different worldviews? How could an Adventist home possibly harmonize its’ child education with the teachings and practices of a non-Adventist school? How could the home training harmonize itself with the teachings and tenets of unconsecrated Bible teachers in the church, especially that most of those teachers have never gone through the rites and rigor of Adventist beliefs and philosophy of education?

If our children and youth will grow to live productive and reproductive Christian lives, then the God of the home must be the God of the Church and the God of the school. Any mixture of the sacred and the unsacred will be, yea—has already been—raising generations of hypocrite, mischievous, and barren Christians: “for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?” (2 Cor. 6: 14-16).

As Jesus explained in John 10: 1-5, there are thieves that are entering our sheep pen to deceive and destroy the lambs whom God has entrusted to us. They don’t enter through the door, “but

climb up some other way." The other ways are mainly the false theories about the universe and its origin, the nature of man in comparison to other creatures on earth, and the purpose of human life on earth. The billions of literatures, movies, social media platforms, and unconsecrated minds of most teachers are the breaches and ladders by which the enemy of life and true success is using to enter our children's minds. No wonder, just as sin crouched around Cain, desiring to have him (Gen. 4: 7), so, is the devil roaring like a lion, walking about our children, seeking whom to devour (1 Pet. 5: 8).

Therefore, the Spirit of Prophecy urges us saying, "Parents, guardians, place your children in training schools where the influences are similar to those of a rightly conducted home school; schools in which the teachers will carry them forward from point to point, and in which the spiritual atmosphere is a savor of life unto life... Whether or not our youth who have received wise instruction and training from godly parents will continue to be sanctified through the truth depends largely upon the influence that, after leaving their homes, they meet among those to whom they look for Christian instruction" (*Child Guidance*, p. 303). "In planning for the education of their children outside the home, parents should realize that it is no longer safe to send them to the public school, and should endeavor to send them to schools where they will obtain an education based on a Scriptural foundation. Upon every Christian parent there rests the solemn obligation of giving to his children an education that will lead them to gain a knowledge of the Lord and to become partakers of the divine nature through obedience to God's will and way" (*Child Guidance*, p. 304).

The Remnant Church members ought to be striving for a conducive learning environment for their children whereby the character built from home is strengthened and cemented by the religious education of the church as well as the faith-integrated curriculum of formal education in the school. Unfortunately, the church in West-Central Africa sub-region has not put in sufficient efforts in educating and urging its members to invest in Adventist Education, and the result has been the unavoidable enrollment in public and non-Bible-based private schools that have nothing to offer to the children except the wisdom of this world, which is foolishness before God.

"Can we wonder that under such circumstances some of the youth among us do not appreciate religious advantages? Can we wonder that they drift into temptation? Can we wonder that, neglected as they have been, their energies are devoted to amusements which do them no good, that their religious aspirations are weakened, and their spiritual life darkened? The mind will be of the same character as that upon which it feeds, the harvest of the same nature as the seed sown. Do not these facts sufficiently show the necessity of guarding from the earliest years the education of the youth? Would it not be better for the youth to grow up in a degree of ignorance as to what is commonly accepted as education than for them to become careless in regard to the truth of God?" (*Child Guidance*, p. 305).

"Wherever there are a few Sabbathkeepers, the parents should unite in providing a place for a day school where their children and youth can be instructed. They should employ a Christian teacher, who, as a consecrated missionary, shall educate the children in such a way as to lead them to become missionaries. Let teachers be employed who will give a thorough education

in the common branches, the Bible being made the foundation and the life of all study" (*Child Guidance*, p. 307).

"We are far behind our duty in this important matter. In many places schools should have been in operation years ago. Many localities would thus have had representatives of the truth who would have given character to the work of the Lord. Instead of centering so many large buildings in a few places, schools should have been established in many localities" (*Child Guidance*, p. 309).

May God cause us to see the need of building more schools and training more teachers for our children and youth.

Prayer Emphasis:

- Revival of family worship and bible study
- Role modeling in Church life and activities
- Integration of faith and teaching in our schools
- Integration of faith and service in our workplaces

February 8, 2023

What shall the Lord's teaching entail?

Key Text: 2 Timothy 3: 16-17

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Any aspect of true education for our children must build upon truth, all truth, and nothing but the truth about their origin, the purpose of their lives on earth, and their eternal destiny. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2: 10, KJV). "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ" (2 Cor. 2: 15-16).

"True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come. The source of such an education is brought to view in these words of Holy Writ, pointing to the Infinite One: In Him 'are hid all the treasures of wisdom'" [Col. 2:3] (*Education*, p. 13). "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord" (Jer. 9: 23-24).

Whatever area of study our children may be called to explore, the knowledge and fear of God shall certainly be the springboard of their development, because every knowledge and wisdom stem from Him. "Since the book of nature and the book of revelation bear the impress of the same master mind, they cannot but speak in harmony. By different methods, and in different languages, they witness to the same great truths. Science is ever discovering new wonders; but she brings from her research nothing that, rightly understood, conflicts with divine revelation. The book of nature and the written word shed light upon each other. They make us acquainted with God by teaching us something of the laws through which He works" (*Education*, p. 128). "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter

also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. (Ps. 19: 1-3, 7-11).

When God teaches our children, He provides them with wholistic education—an education harmonizes science with arts and humanities; an education that train the head, the heart, and the hand; an education that broadens and deepens with more inspiration from God, continued acknowledgement of His sustenance of the Universe with whatever is or happens therein, and witnessing to His unfailing love for a fallen world, which He continually seeks to save.

In the Eden school, Adam was blessed with the responsibility of tilling the soil to acquaint himself with earth and environmental sciences (Gen. 2: 15); he was also given the privilege of studying the created animals and accordingly give them names thereby enrolling him in life sciences (Gen. 2: 19); but he was endowed with the gist of poetry as exhibited during his first encounter with his other self—Eve—who was made out of his bone (Gen. 2: 23). Of course, the regular visit of the Almighty God to the garden of Eden kept Adam and Eve in the atmosphere of spiritual nourishment for moral development.

The same principle of wholistic education is traceable in the curriculum of the schools of the prophets, even though with adaptative modifications. We are told that “the pupils of these schools sustained themselves by their own labor in tilling the soil or in some mechanical employment. In Israel this was not thought strange or degrading; indeed, it was regarded as a sin to allow children to grow up in ignorance of useful labor. Every youth, whether his parents were rich or poor, was taught some trade. Even though he was to be educated for holy office, a knowledge of practical life was regarded as essential to the greatest usefulness. Many, also, of the teachers supported themselves by manual labor” (*Education*, p. 47)

The One who knows our children before they are formed in their mother’s womb, the One who has a plan for them to prosper them, to give them long life and to satisfy them with all the goods of the land, the One who would be pick them up even if we decided to forsake them, is the only One who has the best and most detailed curriculum for the wholistic development. He has declared throughout history who He is to our children and what He holds for them. He says, among other things, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee...” (Jer. 1: 5). “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jer. 29: 11). “But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine” (Isa. 43: 1). “Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation” (Ps. 91: 14-16).

It is obvious that wholistically prosperous life is only possible for those who are led to the feet of the Teacher of teachers and resolve to abide by His life principles that have no parallel in our world today. The Creator of the Universe and Teacher par excellence has declaratively made inalienable promises to His faithful students saying, “Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy

children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel." (Ps. 128: 1-6).

May God cause us to seek wholistic education only through the harmony of His created nature and His revealed Word, so that we "may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3: 17).

Prayer Emphasis:

- Our children in public and non-Adventist private schools
- For our children in the hands of non-Adventist teachers in "Adventist" schools
- For reclaiming our schools from the governments in some countries in WAD
- For infrastructural rehabilitation and improvement of teaching and learning in Adventist schools in WAD.

February 9, 2023

When Should the Lord teach your children?

Key Text: 2 Timothy 4: 3-4

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

The urgency for our children to be taught by God and God alone is long overdue. We are now living in those days of which Jesus Christ spoke saying: “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matt. 24: 24, KJV). If the very elect—those who have been taught by the Lord and scrupulously follow Him—are likely to be deceived, how much more our children if they are left at the mercy of the worldly teachers and opinion leaders to teach them? We are living in the perilous times spoken of by the Apostle saying “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away” (2 Tim. 3: 1-5, JKV). How shall our children turn away from such people if they are not taught by the Lord Himself?

Today’s generation of children are so much exposed to evil and evildoing that no amount of counsel or correction can turn them from waywardness, except as they are continuously led to knowing God and following His footsteps. The devil knows that “children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth” (Ps. 127: 3-4). He knows that “With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!” (*Education*, p. 271). The enemy of life and progress is ever prepared to do everything possible to prevent children from being taught by the Lord, because he knows that “for of such is the kingdom of God” (Luke 18: 16). Therefore, parents must wake up to the task of bringing their children to the Lord. We cannot safely depend on anyone else, not even the Pastor or the teacher, to bring our children to God. Here below is a solemn caution from the Spirit of Prophecy concerning the urgency and obligation of availing our children to be taught by the Lord:

“Parents, you carry responsibilities that no one can bear for you. As long as you live, you are accountable to God to keep His way. . . . Parents who make the word of God their guide, and who realize how much their children depend upon them for the characters they form, will set an example that it will be safe for their children to follow.

Fathers and mothers are responsible for the health, the constitution, the development of the character of their children. No one else should be left to see to this work. In becoming the parents of children, it devolves upon you to cooperate with the Lord in educating them in sound principles.

How sad it is that many parents have cast off their God-given responsibility to their children, and are willing that strangers should bear it for them! They are willing that others should labor for their children and relieve them of all burden in the matter. . . .For some reason many parents dislike to give their children religious instruction. They leave them to pick up in Sabbath school the knowledge they should impart concerning their responsibility to God. Such parents need to understand that God desires them to educate, discipline, and train their children, ever keeping before them the fact that they are forming characters for the present and the future life.

Do not depend upon the teachers of the Sabbath school to do your work of training your children in the way they should go. The Sabbath school is a great blessing; it may help you in your work, but it can never take your place. God has given to all fathers and mothers the responsibility of bringing their children to Jesus, teaching them how to pray and believe in the word of God.

In the education of your children lay not the grand truths of the Bible to one side, supposing that the Sabbath school and the minister will do your neglected work. The Bible is not too sacred and sublime to be opened daily and studied diligently." (*The Adventist Home*, pp. 187, 189).

Today many countries have removed religious and moral education from their school curriculums to ensure that children have no idea or echo of God and morality. Moreover, most Christian denominations have subscribed to theistic evolution which negates the literal interpretation of the biblical creation account. Progressively, Bible truth is replaced with a theology that is coated with evolutionary thought as propounded by very influential Church fathers of old such as Saint Augustin of Hippo, Origen, and Thomas Aquinas. Consequently, the God of the Bible is being gradually replaced in the human mind with the so-called Big Bang which is a counter-biblical attempt to explain the origin of the universe. We are at the climax of the era of scoffers "walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (2 Pet. 3: 3-4). Time has come us and our children to "be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12: 2). Time has come for us and our children to "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12: 1-2).

The following solemn caution from the Spirit of Prophecy is worth taking seriously:

"Few parents begin early enough to teach their children to obey. The child is usually allowed to get two or three years the start of its parents, who forbear to discipline it, thinking it too young to learn to obey. But all this time self is growing strong in the little being, and every day makes harder the parent's task of gaining control. At a very early age children can comprehend what is plainly and simply told them, and by kind and judicious management can be taught to obey. Never should they be allowed to show their parents disrespect. Self-will should never be

permitted to go unrebuked. The future well-being of the child requires kindly, loving, but firm discipline" (*Counsel to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 111).

"There is a blind affection that gives the children the privilege of doing as they please. But to allow a child to follow his natural impulses is to allow him to deteriorate and to become proficient in evil. Wise parents will not say to their children, 'Follow your own choice; go where you will, and do what you will;' but, 'Listen to the instruction of the Lord.' Wise rules and regulations must be made and enforced, that the beauty of the home life may not be spoiled. It is impossible to depict the evil that results from leaving a child to its own will. Some who go astray because of neglect in childhood will later, through the inculcation of practical lessons, come to their senses; but many are lost forever because in childhood and youth they received only a partial, one-sided culture. The child who is spoiled has a heavy burden to carry throughout his life. In trial, in disappointment, in temptation, he will follow his undisciplined, misdirected will. Children who have never learned to obey will have weak, impulsive characters. They seek to rule, but have not learned to submit. They are without moral strength to restrain their wayward tempers, to correct their wrong habits, or to subdue their uncontrolled wills. The blunders of untrained, undisciplined childhood become the inheritance of manhood and womanhood. The perverted intellect can scarcely discern between the true and the false" (*Counsel to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 112).

The time for the Lord to teach our children is **Now or Never**.

May God cause us to develop the sense of urgency of His return and the dangers that encircle our children in this postmodern world dominated by evolutionary worldview.

Prayer Emphasis:

- Our children pursuing academic degrees in life sciences and earth sciences programs
- Adventist teachers in life sciences and earth sciences programs in non-Adventist institutions
- Adventists who are getting theological education outside of Adventist institutions
- Adventists who are receiving Spirit-of-Prophecy books from non-Adventist-accredited publishers.

February 10, 2023

Have the Parents themselves been taught by the Lord?

Key Text: Psalm 69: 5-6

“O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel” (KJV).

The reason why many professed Christians are not particular about who teaches their children is because they themselves have not been taught by the Lord. Many professed Christians today are not growing in the likeness of Jesus Christ, even though they are active in religious activities including evangelism and community services. And because their community of believers as well their neighborhood approve of their lifestyle (often because it conforms to the predominant standards of the world), they please themselves in only giving Bible instructions to their children without thinking of being role models. The lifestyle of many Christian parents today may reflect what is described in the book of Romans where God is challenging the self-acclaimed circumcised Jews to be Jews inwardly, not just outwardly.

The Apostle Paul is inspired to query the Jewish Christians in Rome saying, “Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written” (Rom. 2: 17-24).

As parents, we cannot appreciate the usefulness of God’s teaching until we ourselves have been trained into His school. We cannot desire for our Children the blessedness of God’s teachings until we ourselves have benefitted from them. Our children will hardly desire to be taught by God until they see the usefulness of such teachings in the lives of their parents.

Concerning this matter of parents as role models for their growing children, the Spirit of Prophecy has the following to say:

“The best way to educate children to respect their father and mother, is to give them the opportunity of seeing the father offering kindly attentions to the mother, and the mother rendering respect and reverence to the father. It is by beholding love in their parents, that children are led to obey the fifth commandment and to heed the injunction, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and thy mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest live long on the earth.

When children have unbelieving parents, and their commands contradict the requirements of Christ, then, painful though it may be, they must obey God and trust the consequences with

Him. The Lord has expressly enjoined the duty upon children of honoring their father and their mother. As they have opportunity and ability, they are kindly to care for their parents. This commandment to children stands at the head of the last six precepts which show our duty to others. But while children are commanded to obey their parents, parents are also instructed to exercise their authority with wisdom. Paul writes, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Great care should be exercised by parents lest they treat their children in such a way as to provoke obstinacy, disobedience, and rebellion.

Parents often stir up the worst passions of the human heart, because of their lack of self-control. They correct them in a spirit of anger, and rather confirm them in their evil ways and defiant spirit, than influence them in the way of right. By their own arbitrary spirit they thrust their children under Satanic influences, instead of rescuing them from the snares of Satan by gentleness and love. How sad it is that many parents who profess to be Christians, are not converted! Christ does not abide in their hearts by faith. While professing to be followers of Jesus, they disgust their children, and, by their violent, unforgiving temper, make them averse to all religion. It is little wonder that the children become cold and rebellious toward their parents. And yet children are not excused for disobedience because of their parents' unsanctified ways.

O that every family professing to be devoted to God, were so in deed and in truth! Then would Christ be represented in the home-life, and parents and children would represent Him in the church, and what happiness would exist!" (*Review and Herald*, November 15, 1892).

"With us as parents and as Christians it rests to give our children right direction. They are to be carefully, wisely, tenderly guided into paths of Christlike ministry. We are under sacred covenant with God to rear our children for His service. To surround them with such influences as shall lead them to choose a life of service, and to give them the training needed, is our first duty" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 484).

A time is coming very soon when the Lord will address many Christian parents saying: "Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock? What wilt thou say when he shall punish thee? for thou hast taught them to be captains, and as chief over thee: shall not sorrows take thee, as a woman in travail?" (Jer. 13: 20-21).

May the Lord cause us to be good role models to our children and families to protect them from suffering because of our misdeeds. David's family was torn apart and never knew peace because he went astray from God's teachings to satisfy his passions and lust as he raped Beersheba and killed her husband. The tragedies that befell David's family because of his evil role model are described in 12 chapters of the second book of Samuel (2 Sam. 13-24), and no reasonable parent would want to expose his family to such tragedies. Indeed, the Lord had told David through the prophet Nathan that "Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and

hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun" (2 Sam. 12: 9-12).

Prayer Emphasis:

Revival of the local church concerning

- Pre-marital relationships
- Spousal relationships
- Parenting infants, children, adolescents, and young adulthood
- Christian role modeling

February 11, 2023

All Your Children Shall Be Taught by The Lord

Key Text: Isaiah 54: 13-16

“And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.”

The fifty-fourth chapter of Isaiah presents an amazing message of restoration and wholistic prosperity. It portrays Israel being restored from its Babylonian captivity and coming back to its own land where its children will no longer be taught by the uncircumcised strangers, but will rather feed on the holy word of God, which is truth and life. But the restoration of Israel would come only after Israel has learned its lessons from the consequences of disobedience. True repentance and return to the ways of the Lord must take place in the hearts of the parents and manifested in their outward behaviors and activities, so that children can grow naturally in the ways of the Lord.

“Your home is a little world of itself...You are the ones who must decide whether your children shall choose the service of God or the service of mammon, eternal life or eternal death...Like the patriarchs of old, those who profess to love God should erect an altar to Him wherever they pitch their tent...Let the father, as priest of the household, lay upon the altar of God the morning and evening sacrifice, while the wife and children unite in prayer and praise. In such a household Jesus will love to abide.

From every Christian home a holy light should shine forth. Love should be revealed in every act. It should flow out in all home intercourse, showing itself in thoughtful kindness, in gentle, unselfish courtesy. There are homes where this principle is carried out—homes where God is worshiped and truest love reigns. From these homes morning and evening prayer ascends to God as sweet incense, and His mercies and blessings descend upon the suppliants like morning dew” (*The Review and Herald*, December 23, 1902).

The Lord will teach our children on condition that we have created an environment conducive to the visitation of the divine presence. We must consciously make efforts to shield our children from the wrath of God, but rather prepare them for divine blessings. We must clearly show to the Lord that we are ready for Him to teach our children by choosing to invest in regular family worship, church parenting programs, and Adventist formal education. We must prove to the Lord that we know and desire what is best for our children. We must not give “*educational stones*” to our children when they are crying for “*educational bread*,” or snake when they are crying for fishes, or scorpions when they are crying for “*educational eggs*” (Matt. 7: 9-11).

Our children will be ready for the Lord to teach them only in a family environment where the religion of Christ is practiced, as the Spirit of Prophecy admonishes us in the following statements.

"The religion of Christ will lead us to do all the good possible, to both high and low, rich and poor, happy and oppressed. But especially will it lead to the manifestation of kindness in our own family. It will be manifested by acts of courtesy and love to father and mother, husband, wife, and child. We are to look to Jesus, to catch His Spirit, to live in the light of His goodness and love, and to reflect His glory upon others" (*Manuscript 18*, 1891).

"Those who are united by the ties of nature have the strongest claims upon one another. In their dealings with each other they should manifest kindness and the tenderest love" (*The Signs of the Times*, September 1, 1898).

"Gentle manners, cheerful conversation, and loving acts will bind the hearts of children to their parents by the silken cords of affection and will do more to make home attractive than the rarest ornaments that can be bought for gold" (*The Signs of the Times*, October 2, 1884).

"Mutual kindness and forbearance will make home a paradise and attract holy angels into the family circle; but they will flee from a house where there are unpleasant words, fretfulness, and strife" (*The Signs of the Times*, April 17, 1884).

"The most valuable rules for social and family intercourse are to be found in the Bible.... Our Saviour's sermon on the mount contains instruction of priceless worth to old and young. It should be often read in the family circle, and its precious teachings exemplified in the daily life. The golden rule, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them," ... should be made the law of the family. Those who cherish the spirit of Christ will manifest politeness at home.... They will be constantly seeking to make all around them happy, forgetting self in their kind attention to others" (*The Signs of the Times*, July 1, 1886).

"Christian courtesy is the golden clasp which unites the members of the family in bonds of love, becoming closer and stronger every day" (*The Health Reformer*, August 1877).

All the above admonitions are zeroing in on one central requirement for our children to be taught by the Lord; that is, the message and life of Christ must be practicalized in our homes. Parents must seek to "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2: 3-8).

Before our children will be ready to be taught by the Lord, they need to see that we love one another as Christ loved us (John 13: 34); that we forgive one other as we expect God to forgive us (Matt. 6: 12); that we are forbearing one another in love, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Eph. 4: 2-3). Let our children grow realizing that their mother is submissive to their father as to the Lord, while their father loves their mother "as Jesus loved the Church and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Eph. 5: 22-26).

It is about time parents reviewed the kind of religion that is practiced in the home to ensure that the requirements for divine-classroom environment are in place. And for us Seventh-day Adventists, preparing the family environment for our children to be taught by the Lord need

not be emphasized, knowing well that “We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 489).

May God cause us to set up our home as worthy classrooms for divine teaching ministries.

Prayer Emphasis:

- The spirit of our pioneers with their intentional eagerness to enroll every child in a Bible-rooted, God-inspired, Christ-centered, Spirit-led, Service-oriented, Heaven-bound Adventist Education, to redeem and restore our children, educating them for eternity.